

ER: 60-7075/A

STAT

DPD-DD/P-IAC:mg (20 Sep 60)
Rewritten: [redacted] vgd 23 Sep 60
Distribution:

orig - Addressee
1 - ER w/basic
1 - DPD/RI
✓ 1 - DCI
1 - JSE

Mr. E. Merritt

Dear Mr. Merritt:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of 7 September 1960 concerning the case of Mr. Francis G. Powers.

I would like to mention that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States Embassy representative prior to his trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out at the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing."

Furthermore, even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviet, and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

While I am aware that the above does not fully answer all the points you have raised, I hope you will find it helpful and I only wish that I could be more responsive, but at this time it would not be in the interests of the prisoner nor of national security to do so. I might add that there is no evidence to support the suggestion quoted in paragraph three of your letter.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Executive Officer

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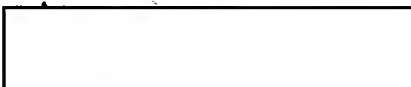
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Executive Officer

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Mr. E. Merritt



Dear Mr. Merritt:

I have received and have read with close attention your letter of 30 August concerning the case of Mr. Francis G. Powers.

I would like to mention that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States Embassy representative prior to his trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out at the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing."

As you must know, Mr. Powers performed an extremely valuable service for the security of this country. Arrangements have been made to continue his salary accruals without reduction of amounts. This determination is in accord with existing Federal laws which would be applicable to civilian employees and military personnel alike under similar circumstances. Furthermore, even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviet, and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

While I am aware that the above does not fully answer all the points you have raised, I hope you will find it helpful, and I only wish that I could be more responsive, but at this time it would not be in the interests of the prisoner nor of national security to do so.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification
60-7075

STAT

Sept. 7, 1960.

Director,
Central Intelligence Administration,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose a few clippings from the St. Louis Globe Democrat showing how these people feel about Powers and his actions.

When we first heard of the incident, we also heard that he was supposed to destroy himself and plane rather than get into the hands of the Russians. CPYRGHT Yet later on no mention of these facts was heard.

CPYRGHT I quote from Bob Considine column "A friend just called and said that there was now reason to believe that Powers is a double agent: That he was not shot down, but landed the spy plane at Sverdlovsk and turned his pictures over to his real bosses (the Russians) after taking us for \$2500.00 a month, plus a \$30,000.00 bonus per trip." His father has said he did not think he was shot down.

Many people, besides writing, think the same thing about Powers; at least he was most unpatriotic doing and saying what he did, and the people in Washington are certainly very generous with our, the taxpayers', money. He did not obey orders and should not be paid while in Russia. He should not be allowed back in our country ever and far stricter screening should be taken of any one in your department.

Sincerely,

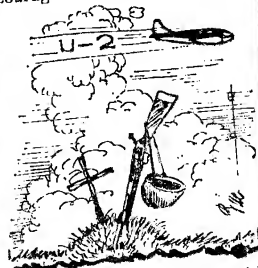
E. Merrill

To the Editor:

"Not Like Nathan Hale": I agree; and wonder how our men and their families in SAC and those in the other defense services feel when they read of the cowardly whining for pity by Francis Powers and his family.

The men in our services perform their dangerous job of defending our country and our freedom at a fraction of \$30,000 a year. Many make great sacrifices, both personal and financial, to remain in the service. The widows and orphans of the many men shot down over international and United States waters and territories must have a very special sympathy for this well paid hero.

We had better thank God and be ever grateful for these courageous and unselfish men



who protect our country, with little pay and little whining.
 DORRIS REISENLEITER,
 8912 Harrison ave.,
 Brentwood.

The 'Who' of Powers' Case

To the Editor:

Your editorial "Not Like Nathan Hale," was refreshingly excellent. The U-2 episode Francis Power's actions caused wonder and amaze. So very true your words Powers and now his family have done an enormous service to the nation.

The question is—how this happen? Who was responsible for the select this man? Who was responsible for briefing him poorly? Who is this autocrat who can put a civilian in an Air Force plane? Who has this authority in Washington who issues the statement Powers will receive \$30 year so long as he remains prisoner? Who has the limited American tax funds to hire personnel whose love of money exceeds patriotism?

Central Intelligence Agency for whom Powers was working has endeavored to stay this picture as much as possible. For the past five two of our Senators have requested a thorough investigation of C.I.A. and have no place. Could be the American people should bind them.

JAMES L.
 Webster Groves

'Stop Powers' Salary

To the Editor:

Your editorial, "Not Like Nathan Hale," hit the nail on the head. I wish every American could have read it. Embarrassed our President our country and every American can to save his own hide will never know how many our "War Dead" died because they would not reveal small secrets to the enemy.

It makes me sick to think that part of my tax dollar he spent to pay Powers' salary while he is in prison. I The Globe-Democrat with the various Veterans organizations would take the step to stop Powers' salary while he is in Russia.

LINCOLN S. CAPST
 3430 Lindscott

Stand on Spies

To the Editor:

Re: your Francis Powers editorial; if, as you state, a spy does what he does, the full understanding of the country cannot and will by the nature of his duty behind him if he is caught. Why have you and the majority of the nation's cheered the President's decision to take personal responsibility for the U-2 flight is absolutely illogical to behind a spy's mission then to disclaim the spy can't, won't and didn't.

ALAN H. SPEARMAN
 721 Olive st.

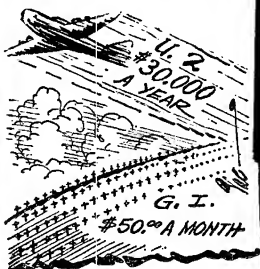
THE MAIL BAG

Hopes Other U-2 Pilots Are Men—Not Boys

To the Editor:

The editorial "Not Like Nathan Hale" certainly expressed my convictions regarding an event much in the news lately. During the past several years more than one GI received a bullet in the back of his head (at \$50 per month, not \$30,000 per year) for getting caught behind enemy lines.

It is a sad commentary on Mr. Powers' patriotism that when he had the world listening to him he was unable or unwilling to give a witness to our American way of life. The fact that he was sorry and now comes begging Khrushchev for mercy indicates—to me, at least—the attitude of a small boy



who is crying because he can't have his cake and eat it, too.

I sincerely hope that other flyers on similar missions are AMERICAN MEN and not boys.

RALPH E. BUREMAN
 Assistant Editor
 THE CHRISTIAN
 Beaumont and Pine bl.